

Exceptional Children Information for Parents

January 20, 2021



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov>

Celebrating You!

Thank you to all of you that submitted comments of positivity. Here's to hoping this unprecedented time is almost over and a return to "normal" is soon around the corner. We celebrate you and all you do for the students of NC.

We attend Asheville Middle in Asheville. Can I share about multiple amazing teachers at my daughters' school? Firstly **Ms. Kaysee Grogan**, my daughters' EC support is AMAZING! We just entered middle school and that transition is hard enough, adding a pandemic and fully remote learning and it's been difficult. But Ms. Grogan is there for my daughter to help her along the way and we are so appreciative of her help and dedication! We would also like to shout out to all of our amazing teachers at AMS. **Ms. Zlakin, Ms. Wager, Mr. Sawyer Johnston, Mr. Randall, Mr. Orengo, Ms. Connelly and Mr. Buchanan**. They have shown such support for these children under such difficult circumstances and we appreciate them!

*I would like to give a shout out to **Mr. Ward**, the EC teacher at Topsail High School. Also, a shout out to Ms. Hassel!*

*Special shout-out to **Mr. Graham!!** He is calm and patient with our E.C. kiddos. Thank you, Mr. G.!!!
-Mrs. P.*

Important Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
 - [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#)
- [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)
 - [Lighting Our Way Forward \(Summary\)](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](#)

Upcoming Events

- **Braille Challenge**
Eye Shine Foundation is hosting the Braille Challenge for the 4th year and is serving the **entire** state this time. All braille reading participants from NC are welcome to register and attend our REMOTE Braille Challenge to be held during the week of February 22-26th.

Please visit [Braille Institute](#) for more information about the challenge and to access the registration form. Please contact Jolie Lindley with any questions: EasternNCBrailleChallenge@gmail.com

Welcome Catherine Truitt!

Catherine Truitt was sworn in as the Superintendent of Public Instruction on January 2, 2021. Find out more about her [here](#). You can also follow her on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Check out previous newsletters for other resources.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/parent-listserv-communications>

Contact: Alexis Utz, Parent Liaison
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Beverly Brown of American Renaissance School for always ensuring my daughter succeeds in everything she does at school!

We want to thank all the 7th grade teachers at Westover Middle School for the great work throughout the 2020 school year, especially **Mrs. Pettiford** for always being there for our son J.O.V.H., no matter what time or day, she was always ready to help and clarify any doubts we had. Thank you very much for your great support. Many blessings, we wish you the best, see you next year.

-V. H. Family

Our school-based speech therapist has been engaging my daughter in an hour-long virtual session weekly for the past several months with much success. My daughter is able to stay online and practice to speak in fuller phrases, as the therapist balances her nonpreferred and preferred topics. The therapist also offers a weekly social lunch virtually which is well attended by many EC students. There are door prizes and short quizzes to keep it interesting.

Happy New Year! I want to say thank you to the EC team, especially **Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Kahlenberg, Mrs. Luckette, Mrs. Powell, and Mr. Brost** for all the help that they gave my son. Also, I want to thank his pre-K teachers **Mrs. Pratscher** and **Mrs. Smith**. Thank you for all your work. God bless you all! And continue bringing smiles in all the little faces.

Thank you! F. G.

Ms. McKoy and Ms. Pettiford are always available when it comes to my son's education. These two women are a great team together. I have seen the interact with other children in the classroom and all I have to say is that they want each and every one of their students to prosper in life. Their love and compassion for their students is wonderful. Glad to have my son in their classroom. Thank you, Mrs. Pettiford and Ms. McKoy, for all you do.

Shout out to **Mrs. Jackson** for keeping us altogether during this time even when we wanted to quit! And shout out to **Mrs. Lassiter**, her dance moves may have actually been the reason everyone logged in daily!

Our principal, **Rachel Greer**, has been instrumental in our IEP journey. She has guided us through each step and ensured that our child is receiving the best education possible.

Thank you to **New Dimensions Charter School** for all your hard work keeping our children safe during these unusual circumstances. You have continued to teach our children during stressful times. A personal thank you to **Mrs. Beane, Mrs. Strong, and Mrs. Stroupe!**

Shout out to **Mrs. Marlene Williams**, she keeps my kid on a positive track. She is there for him when he needs her emotionally and academically. She is awesome at what she does, and my family and I appreciate her.

Thanks to all of A. C.'s teachers at Tommy's Road Elementary. Especially his teacher **Miss Hallie Hulse Evans** because he won't have her when he goes to 6th grade and he has grown so much since she became his teacher when he went to 2nd grade.

My family would like to first thank **Mr. Crossen** for the support my grandson needs and all the students he is serving during this tough time. His patience and care have made it possible for me to support my grandson virtually to the best of my ability. He strengthens the relationship between my grandson, his teachers, and myself. He is always there to answer or clear any questions I have. He communicates my concerns to my grandson's teachers that will make my grandson successful. As his EC teacher, he takes time to understand my grandson and find strategies to help him improve academically. I asked my grandson how he feels about Mr. Crossen and he said, "I like when he works with us in breakout rooms, and he always helps me." Mr. Crossen is a professional gem who makes his students shine.

Thank you for all you do!